

# Treatment of Subject Descriptors on Children in Twenty Three DDC Editions

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*Abstract: This paper has been written to explore the treatment of subject descriptors on children and its correlated subjects in the 23 DDC editions. In order to investigate the objectives it has been intended to adopt assessment and evaluation study. Home and family management (640) class holds the maximum subject descriptors on children i.e. 26. In the 1st edition of DDC there were only 13 concepts on children and it became 228 in the 23rd edition clearly hinting at the growth of subjects on children. These 13 concepts have appeared in all the 23 editions of DDC. Nine concepts can be defined through more than one class number in different editions of DDC.*

*Keywords: Dewey Decimal Classification, DDC, Children, Subject descriptors*

## 1. Introduction

“Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.”

Thirty fifth US president John F. Kennedy’s immortal words on children cogently hint at the real importance of children in human society. Be it United States of America or France or India or Uganda in every country of this world children are the future of the nations. They bear joy not only to their families but the seeds of a strong society are sprouted through their budding flamboyance. In the universe of knowledge also children are manifested in different forms and which get flagrant reflection in the pages of renowned library classification scheme Dewey Decimal Classification or DDC. Since 1876 to 2011 the 23 editions of DDC have appeared and arranged different subjects to open a new horizon in the field of library classification. The present study wants to investigate the trend of development of this specific subject area i.e. children, depending on the 23 editions of DDC.

## 2. Objectives

The present study deals with the following objectives:

- ❖ To represent the discipline wise distribution of concepts on children.

- ❖ To analyse the edition wise distribution of concepts on children.
- ❖ To find out the maximum and minimum occurrences of subject descriptors on children and its correlated subjects.
- ❖ To find out whether any studied concept can be represented through more than one class number.

### 3. Limitations of Scope

This research focuses on the subject descriptors on children as well as on babies, infants and juveniles (as all are synonymous to child in various ways) as reflected in DDC. Subject descriptors on adolescents have been kept outside the purview of this study. Twenty three editions of DDC have been thoroughly studied (especially the relative index portion of the editions and the parts related to children in the schedules) for this research. Altogether 229 concepts or subject descriptors on children and its related subjects have been studied in this research.

### 4. Methodology

Twenty three DDC editions have been searched to collect data on children. The digital versions of the first 19 editions of DDC have been collected from Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>) and the rest four (20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> ed.) (Dewey, 1989-2011) have been studied from Jadavpur University Central Library and Institute of Development Studies Kolkata Library. Comparative treatment of subject descriptors on children in various DDC editions has been performed. Quantitative analysis has been done for satisfying the first three objectives and qualitative method for the last one has been used (Pal, Mondal and Bhattacharya, 2018; Pal, Mondal and Bhattacharya, 2019).

### 5. Data Analysis and Findings

#### 5.1 Distribution of Subject Descriptors on Children according to the Divisions of DDC:

Total 229 subject descriptors on children and its related concepts have been considered for this study. These have been distributed in different divisions (among the 100 main divisions of the 10 main classes) of DDC. The subject descriptors according to their latest DDC appearance have been considered for depicting this distribution. In the Table 1 (*Standard Subdivisions*) of DDC there are 7 concepts and 8 are found from the Table 3 (*Subdivisions for Individual Literatures, for Specific Literary Forms*). Therefore, the division wise distribution of 214 subject descriptors has been depicted in the below table.

**Table 1: Division-wise distribution of subject descriptors on children**

<b>DDC Divisions with Class Numbers</b>	<b>Number of Subject Descriptors on Children</b>
Bibliographies (010)	2

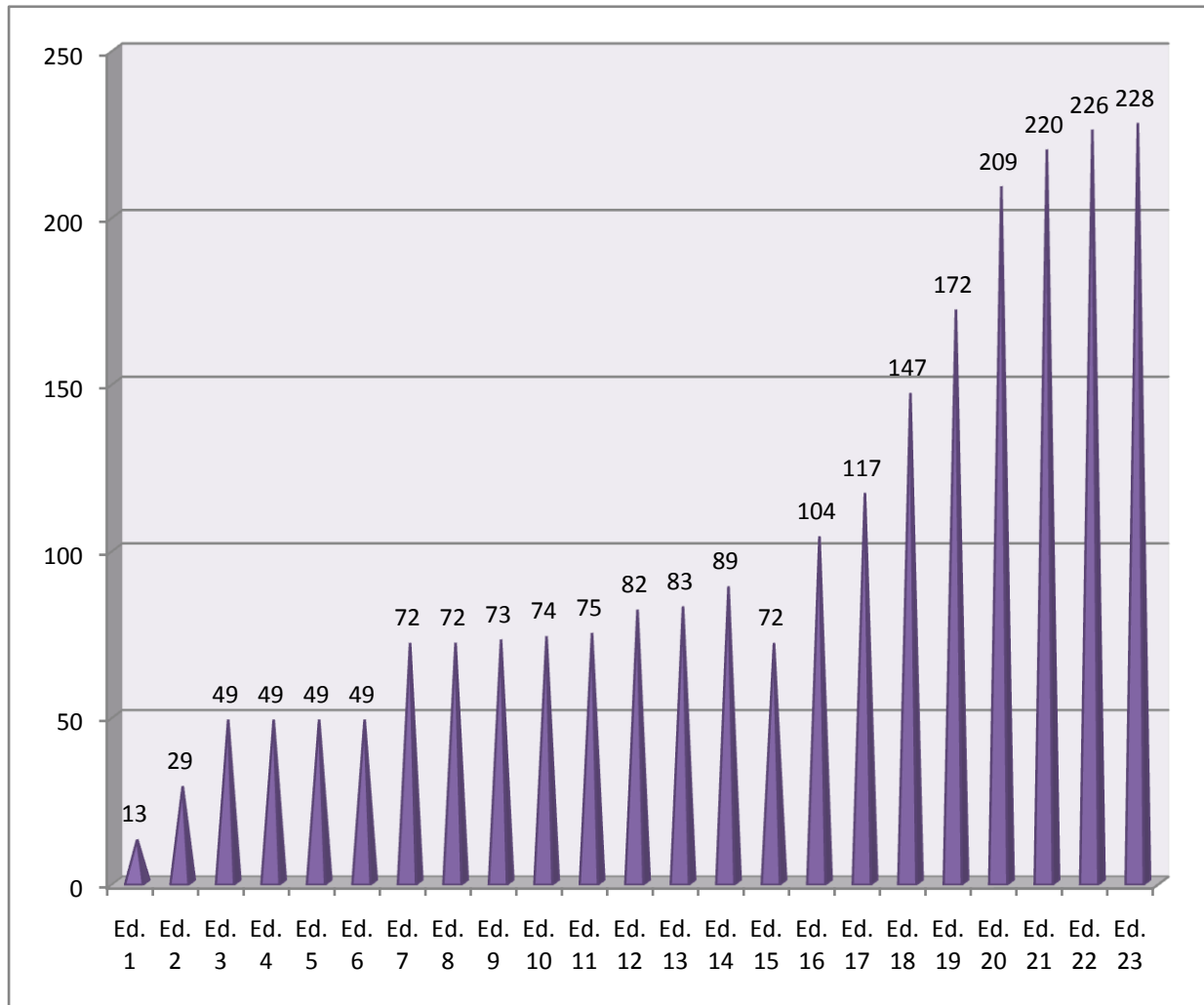
Library and information sciences (020)	8
News media, journalism and publishing (070)	2
Psychology (150)	10
Ethics (170)	3
Religion (in general) (200)	4
Christianity (230)	4
Christian moral and devotional theology (240)	4
Local Christian church and religious order (250)	3
Christian social and ecclesiastical theology (260)	4
Other religions (290)	5
Social sciences (in general)(300)	20
Political science (320)	3
Economics (330)	2
Law (340)	22
Public administration and military science (350)	3
Social problems and social services (360)	23
Education (370)	6
Customs, etiquette and folklore (390)	8
Medicine and health (610)	20
Home and family management (640)	26
Chemical engineering (660)	1
Manufacture for specific uses (680)	1
Arts (in general) (700)	2
Architecture (720)	2
Graphic arts and decorative arts (740)	2
Painting (750)	1
Music (780)	6
Sports, games and entertainment (790)	5
Literature, rhetoric and criticism (800)	9
History of Europe (940)	3

From this table it is evident that there are total 31 subject divisions and among which the total 214 subject descriptors have been distributed. *Home and family management (640)* class holds the maximum subject descriptors on children i.e. 26, and it is followed by *Social problems and social services (360)* and *Law (340)* with 23 and 22 subject descriptors respectively. *Social sciences (in general) (300)* and *Medicine and health (610)* classes hold the joint fourth positions respectively in holding subject descriptors with 20 topics each. *Chemical engineering (660)*, *Manufacture for specific uses (680)* and *Painting (750)* class have the least number of subject descriptors under them and the number is 1 in every case.

## 5.2 DDC Edition wise Distribution of Subject Descriptors on Children:

In the following figure DDC's edition wise distribution of subject descriptors on children and its related concepts have been portrayed. Whereas in the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition there are 228 subject descriptors on children (out of total 229 studied concepts *Children of American Revolution* is absent here as it is present only from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of DDC), in the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> edition there are 226,

220 and 209 subject descriptors respectively. It is quite clear from the figure that with every new edition new subjects on children have been added to the DDC. It only hints at the progressive development and gradual growth in the universe of subjects with the passage of time. In the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of DDC there were only 13 concepts on children and in the 10<sup>th</sup> edition the number became 74. As the standard 15<sup>th</sup> edition of DDC only had few subject descriptors (Dhyani, 1998), it was no exception in case of children related concepts also. This edition only carried 72 concepts whereas the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> editions had 89 and 104 subject descriptors respectively on children.



**Figure 1: DDC edition wise distribution of subject descriptors on children**

### 5.3 Maximum and Minimum Occurrences of Subject Descriptors on Children in DDC Editions:

The detailed analysis of the concepts on children reveals that there are some concepts or subject descriptors which have appeared in the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of DDC are also available in the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of DDC. It means that these concepts which are thirteen in number are available in all the editions of DDC. These subject descriptors with maximum occurrences are *Child care*, *Children – health – home care*, *Children’s diseases – social welfare*, *Children’s homes*, *Children’s hospitals*, *Early childhood – education*, *Foundling asylums –sociology*, *Infant schools*, *Infanticide – ethics*, *Infanticide – law*, *Infants – home care*, *Kindergarten (Primary education)* and *Nurseries (Children’s rooms) - home economics*.

In the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of DDC two concepts like *Childhood disintegrative disorder – medicine* and *Childhood disintegrative disorder – paediatrics* have been introduced for the first time. These two concepts have the minimum occurrences.

#### 5.4 Subject Descriptors on Children with More than One Class Number:

There are nine concepts which can be defined through more than one class number in specific editions. These are as follows:

**Child neglect** (as well as **Child protection**) in the 17<sup>th</sup> ed. is denoted by the class number 362.74 (like the previous editions) in general but in this edition there is another class number for this subject and i.e. 362.73 which hints at the services to *illegitimate and abandoned children and orphans*. This edition is a kind of transitional phase for this subject as in the 18<sup>th</sup> edition 362.73 is used. As in the 17<sup>th</sup> edition 362.74 denotes services to *maladjusted children* and 362.73 focuses on *illegitimate and abandoned children*, these two numbers cover the subject *child neglect* as a whole.

**Childhood – mortality** (as well as Juvenile mortality) is classed in 312.23 from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> edition denoting *infant death* and add instruction is available there for further minute level treatment. As the coverage of *children* is bigger than that of *infants*, the aforesaid subject *childhood - mortality* also covers *statistics of the mortality of the stillbirths* in the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> edition which gets manifestation via the class number 312.24. So in these editions the subject is denoted by two class numbers.

**Children**, in the Table section of DDC, is available as -054 in the 20<sup>th</sup> edition's Table 7 which is a dependent table on *Groups of Persons*. Till the 21<sup>st</sup> edition this number is available in Table 7 and the number cannot be used alone and used following instructions with the main class number. From the 20<sup>th</sup> edition another number -083 from Table 1 i.e. *Standard Subdivisions* table is also used. This number can be added with any main class number to denote children related aspect of the subject without any instruction (except some cases where addition of standard subdivisions is prohibited). So in both the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> edition there are two numbers for this subject from two tables. From the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition Table 7 of DDC gets abolished.

**Children (Progeny)** in the Table portion of DDC appeared in the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of DDC's Table 7 (*Groups of Persons*). Here it is classed in -0441. This number continues till the 21<sup>st</sup> edition. From the 20<sup>th</sup> edition there is also a number for this subject but it is seen in Table 1 (*Standard Subdivisions*) and the number is -0854. In the 21<sup>st</sup> edition also both the numbers are available for this subject. From the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition Table 7 of DDC gets abolished.

**Deaf children** in the Table portion of DDC appeared as -08162 in the Table 7 for *Groups of Persons*. In both the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> edition the number is available in Table 7 with a slightly different name i.e. *persons with impaired hearing*. From the 20<sup>th</sup> edition onwards the provision for this subject is available through Table 1 *Standard Subdivisions*. In Table 1 the allotted number for the subject is -0872. In 21<sup>st</sup> edition also numbers from both the tables are available for this subject. As from the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition Table 7 of DDC gets abolished there is only one number against the subject in the last two editions.

**Disabled children** also like the other concepts from Table portion of DDC appeared in the 20<sup>th</sup> edition as -0816 in the Table 7 for *persons* and the number also denotes *persons with physical disabilities*. In the 21<sup>st</sup> edition also this number remains. From the 20<sup>th</sup> edition onwards the provision for this subject is available through Table 1 *Standard Subdivisions*. In Table 1 the allotted number for

the subject is -087. So in the 21<sup>st</sup> edition also there are two numbers from two different tables against the subject. As from the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition Table 7 of DDC gets abolished there is only one number against the subject in the last two editions.

**Infants** in DDC Tables appeared in Table-7 for *Persons* (in the 20<sup>th</sup> edition) as -0542. The similar number of Table 7 is present in the 21<sup>st</sup> edition because Table 7 expires after that. From the 20<sup>th</sup> edition onwards the subject also receives treatment under Table 1 which is popularly known as *General or Standard Subdivisions* in the number -0832. So in both the editions there are numbers from both the tables against a single subject.

**Infants – food for – hygiene** receives class number in 649.3 denoting *feeding* in the 19<sup>th</sup> edition as well as in later editions. From the 19<sup>th</sup> edition onwards there is a chance of using another class number (by adding *infants* from Table 7 or Table 1) under the main class *social problems and services* (363) for this concept along with 649.3 which can be built following instructions and it will be like 363.19270880542 (by adding -0542 for infants from Table 7) or 363.19270832 (by adding -0832 for infants from Table 1). Therefore, the availability of both 649.3 and 363.19270880542 or 363.19270832 remains from the 19<sup>th</sup> till the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition.

**Juvenile delinquents** in the Table portion of the DDC first appeared clearly in the 21<sup>st</sup> edition. In this edition this subject is classed twice: in Table 1 (*Standard Subdivisions*) and in Table 7 (*Groups of Persons*), but in the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> edition only the treatment in Table 1 is available, because the Table 7 is absent in these editions. In Table 1 the number is -086923 and it is also known as *juvenile delinquents and pre-delinquents*. In the 21<sup>st</sup> edition's Table 7 the number is -06923 which is not given directly, rather is built according to instructions.

## 6. Conclusion and Recommendation

The study defines that *Home and family management (640)* discipline holds the maximum subject descriptors on children i.e. 26. Edition 23 possesses the maximum number of children related concepts i.e. 228 whereas edition 1 holds only 13 concepts. These thirteen concepts are available in all the 23 editions. *Childhood disintegrative disorder – medicine* and *Childhood disintegrative disorder – paediatrics* are the latest entries i.e. in the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition and thus having minimum occurrences. Nine concepts can be defined through more than one class number in various DDC editions. The present study also opens the way of treating the same subject in UDC and in this way other concepts can be treated in DDC.

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